

NOAA Coastal Resource Coordination Program

California Sites

CRC PROGRAM MISSION...

NOAA's Coastal Resource Coordination (CRC) program protects and restores marine and coastal natural resources that are injured by Superfund site contaminants. In cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State of California, and other trustee agencies, NOAA CRCs identify risks to natural resources, recommend protective remedial measures, and design projects to restore injured resources and habitats. Our goal is to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of healthy coastal ecosystems, abundant fishery stocks, and robust populations of marine mammals.



NOAA TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY IN CALIFORNIA...

NOAA acts on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce as a Federal trustee under CERCLA for natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA trust species in California include flounder, sculpin, perch, anchovy, flying fish, sea bass,

striped bass, halibut, herring, mackerel, rockfish, cod, shrimp, dungeness crab, abalone, octopus, urchin, clams, harbor seals, sea lions, whales, and dozens of other species. Species of special concern to NOAA in California because of declining abundance include: Chinook salmon (a federally endangered specie), Coho salmon, steelhead (a proposed threatened specie), sturgeon, and striped bass.

NOAA CRCs AND THE SITE CLEANUP PROCESS...

NOAA believes that ecological risk should be addressed as an integral part of the cleanup process wherever possible. Designing cleanups that protect natural resources as well as human health is an efficient and effective way to address the ecological threat posed by coastal waste sites. Through CRC participation in the cleanup process, the government saves time and money by avoiding duplication of efforts. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of natural resource damage liability. Best of all, environmental threats are addressed sooner, increasing the chances for recovery and restoration of coastal and marine resources.

MILITARY SITES IN CALIFORNIA...

Many of NOAA's active sites in California are military bases. Military facilities pose a special concern for several reasons. First, defense facilities are unique among hazardous waste sites in that they commonly encompass large vestiges of valuable habitats. For instance, Camp Pendleton has the last four undeveloped vernal estuaries in Southern California. Fort Ord has the last major stand in the U.S. of coastal scrub oak community. These habitats are crucial to the long-term survival of dozens of species, some of which are already endangered or threatened. Second, the nature of defense-related activities has left serious cleanup problems at bases throughout the state. Ship and aircraft repair activities, for example, involve chemicals that are highly toxic and persistent in the environment. Third, many of the defense bases along the coast of California are closing and are on the fast track for cleanup. NOAA's input is needed now to ensure that those cleanups protect natural resources as well as human health. NOAA offers technical expertise and a neutral perspective that is valued by both the military and the local public.

AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN CALIFORNIA...

Although NOAA is working to protect and restore natural resources throughout California, the San Francisco Bay and rivers that feed the Bay are of special concern. The watershed provides critical habitat for several runs of endangered salmon, steelhead, rainbow trout, and other species. Mining activities, oil refineries, chemical plants, military facilities, and other municipal and industrial activities throughout the watershed have contaminated enough of the Bay's water and sediments that a fish consumption advisory is in place for most species. Other areas of concern include Monterey Bay, the Farallon Islands, and the Channel Islands. These areas are National Marine Sanctuaries, congressionally recognized areas of unique value meriting special protection.

FYI...

For more information about NOAA's CRC program in California, please contact:

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